

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 25, 2011

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Temporarily Close the Bottomfish Fishing Season for All State Marine Waters in the Main Hawaiian Islands and to Delegate Authority to the DLNR Chairperson to Set This and Future Closure Dates

Submitted for your consideration and approval is a request to temporarily stop the fishing for bottomfish for all state marine waters in the main Hawaiian Islands and to delegate authority. This action is necessary to remain consistent with federal fisheries regulations for bottomfish.

As of February 10, 2010, Federal NOAA Fisheries has not determined the fishery closure date. As such the Department respectfully requests that the BLNR delegate the setting of that date to its Chair, pending the receipt of information from NOAA Fisheries that declares the closure date.

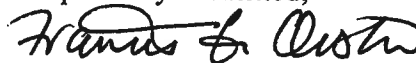
The federal NOAA fisheries should declare closure to fishing for bottomfish in its waters between February and March 2011, when it is expected that the declared total allowable catch (TAC) of 254,050 pounds will be reached. The federal bottomfish fishing season begins September 1st and ends on August 31st, or when the TAC is attained.

The authority for the Board to establish an annual fishing season was established by the Legislature in 2008 (187A-5.5, HRS). Section 187A-5.5, HRS, requires fishing seasons and other stated options to be consistent with federal regulations to remedy overfishing situations; this statute implements monitoring for an annual quota that requires a rapid and coordinated response. Further, Section 13-94-11, Bottomfish Management, Hawaii Administrative Rules, provides that the Board shall approve a closure based on the criteria above.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board approve temporary closure to fishing for bottomfish for all state marine waters in the main Hawaiian Islands and delegate authority to the Chairperson to set current and future closure dates."

Respectfully submitted,



FRANCIS G. OISHI
Program Manager

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Interim Chairperson